

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action dated August 12, 2002, and respectfully request reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 1 has been amended to require component II-a) to be present in an amount of 0 to 50 wt.% and component II-c) to be present in an amount of 1.7 to 60 wt.%. Support for the amendment to component II-a) is found in Claim 5 and support for the lower limit of component II-c) is found in formulation 3 at page 28.

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,456,642 to Burgdorfer et al. The Examiner contends that component I) is disclosed in the Abstract and component II) is disclosed at column 13, lines 8-20.

Applicants traverse this rejection in view of the amendment to Claim 1. Component II), as amended, requires component II-c) to be present in an amount of at least 1.7 wt.%, which means that component II-a) cannot be present in an amount of 100%. Burgdorfer et al does not teach a mixture of components II-a) and II-c). For these reasons it is submitted that Burgdorfer et al does not anticipate the subject claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

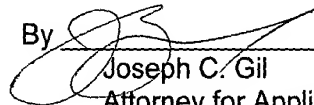
Claims 1-6 and 8-11 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,456,642 to Burgdorfer et al.

Applicants traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth above with regard to the anticipation rejection, i.e., Burgdorfer et al does not teach or render obvious a mixture of components II-a) and II-c). Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the Office Action dated August 12, 2002, and in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A coating system comprising
 - I) an anhydrous, gel-like, high molecular weight polyurethane composition, which may contain an active substance, comprising
 - (1) 15 to 62 wt.%, based on the weight of 1) and 2), of a high molecular weight covalently crosslinked polyurethane matrix,
 - (2) 38 to 85 wt.%, based on the weight of 1) and 2), of a liquid dispersing agent firmly bound in the matrix by secondary valence bonds, wherein the liquid dispersing agent contains one or more polyhydroxyl compounds having a number average molecular weight of 1000 to 12000 and an OH number of 20 to 112, wherein the dispersing agent is substantially free from hydroxyl compounds having a molecular weight below 800 and
 - (3) optionally 0.1 to 100 wt.%, based on the weight of 1) and 2), of fillers, additives and/or catalysts for the polyurethane-forming reaction, wherein optionally 0.1 to 50 wt.% of the additives are active substances, and
 - II) a solvent-containing, solvent-free and/or aqueous polyurethane topcoat comprising
 - a) 0 to [100] 50 wt.%, based on the total weight of the topcoat, of a polyurethane adduct,
 - b) 0 to 90 wt.%, based on the total weight of the topcoat, of a flexible polyol having a T_g of -100 to 70°C and an OH content of 0 to 25 wt.%, based on the total weight of the flexible polyol and
 - c) [0] 1.7 to 60 wt.%, based on the total weight of the topcoat, of a polyisocyanate having an NCO content of 4 to 50 wt.%.